

## CLAIMS

It is claimed:

- 1 1. A method of processing a print job comprised of a document including a first page 1  
2 through a last page n, wherein a control unit receives the print job from a computer  
3 workstation in a computer network and wherein the document was created at the  
4 computer workstation using an application program, the method comprising:
- 5 (a) the control unit interpreting a set of instructions in the print job and causing a  
6 printer to obtain a sheet of paper from a first paper source, the first sheet comprising a top  
7 cover;
- 8 (b) the control unit determining whether the top cover is one-sided, two-sided, or  
9 blank and;
- 10 (i) if the top cover is one-sided, the control unit causing the printer to  
11 print a first page of the document on one face of the first sheet of paper;
- 12 (ii) if the top cover is two-sided, the control unit causing the printer to  
13 print a first page of the document on a front face of the first sheet of paper and print a  
14 second page of the document on a back face of the first sheet of paper;
- 15 (iii) if the top cover is blank, the control unit causing the printer to  
16 output the first sheet of paper with a blank front face and a blank back face;
- 17 (c) the control unit causing the printer to obtain one or more subsequent sheets of  
18 paper from a second paper source;
- 19 (d) the control unit causing the printer to print one or more pages from a  
20 remainder of the document using the one or more subsequent sheets of paper, wherein  
21 each page of the remainder of the document is printed on only one face of each of the one  
22 or more subsequent sheets of paper.

1 2. The method of printing a document of claim 1, wherein if the top cover is two-sided,  
2 the control unit causes the printer to print a first page of the document on a front face  
3 of the first sheet of paper.

1 3. The method of printing a document of claim 1, wherein if the top cover is two-sided,  
2 the control unit causes the printer to print a first page of the document on a back face of  
3 the first sheet of paper.

1 4. The method of printing a document of claim 1, further comprising:

2 (a) the control unit causes the printer to obtain a last sheet of paper from the first  
3 paper source, the last sheet of paper comprising a bottom cover;

4 (b) the control unit causes the printer to print the last page of the document on a  
5 face of the last sheet of paper.

1 5. The method of printing a document of claim 4, wherein the last page of the document  
2 is printed on a front face of the last sheet of paper.

1 6. The method of printing a document of claim 4, wherein the last page of the document  
2 is printed on a back face of the last sheet of paper.

1 7. The method of printing a document of claim 6, wherein a second to last page of the  
2 document is printed on a front face of the last sheet of paper.

1 8. A control unit for processing a print job received from a computer workstation, the  
2 print job comprising a document comprised of a first page 1 through a last page n,  
3 wherein the document was created using an application program on the computer  
4 workstation, the control unit including computer readable software for instructing a  
5 printer to:

6 (a) obtain a first sheet of paper from a first paper source, the first sheet  
7 comprising a top cover;

8 (b) determine whether the top cover is one-sided, two-sided, or blank and;

9 (i) if the top cover is one-sided, print a first page of the document on  
10 one face of the first sheet of paper;

11 (ii) if the top cover is two-sided, print a first page of the document on a  
12 front face of the first sheet of paper and print a second page of the document on a back  
13 face of the first sheet of paper;

14 (iii) if the top cover is blank, output the first sheet of paper with a blank  
15 front face and a blank back face;

16 (c) obtain one or more subsequent sheets of paper from a second paper source;

17 (d) print one or more pages from a remainder of the document using the one or  
18 more subsequent sheets of paper, wherein each page of the remainder of the document is  
19 printed on only one face of each of the one or more subsequent sheets of paper.

1 9. The control unit of claim 8, the software further for instructing the printer to print a  
2 first page of the document on a front face of the first sheet of paper if the top cover is  
3 two-sided.

1 10. The control unit of claim 8, the software further for instructing the printer to print a  
2 first page of the document on a back face of the first sheet of paper if the top cover is  
3 two-sided.

1 11. The control unit of claim 8, the software further for instructing the printer to:

2 (a) obtain a last sheet of paper from the first paper source, the last sheet of paper  
3 comprising a bottom cover;

4 (b) print a last page of the document on a face of the last sheet of paper.

1 12. The control unit of claim 11, the software further for instructing the printer to print  
2 the last page of the document on a front face of the last sheet of paper.

1 13. The control unit of claim 11, the software further for instructing the printer to print  
2 the last page of the document on a back face of the last sheet of paper.

1 14. The control unit of claim 13, the software further for instructing the printer to print a  
2 second to last page of the document on a front face of the last sheet of paper.

1 15. The control unit of claim 11, wherein the top cover is one-sided and the bottom cover  
2 is two-sided.

1 16. The control unit of claim 11, wherein the top cover is two-sided and the bottom cover  
2 is one-sided.

1 17. A method of printing a print job received from a computer workstation, the print job  
2 comprised of a set of instructions and a document including a first page 1 through a last  
3 page n, wherein the document was generated at the computer workstation, the method  
4 comprising a controller generating instructions for a printer to:

5 (a) obtain a sheet of paper from a first paper source, the first sheet comprising a  
6 top cover;

7 (b) if the top cover is one-sided, print a first page of the document on one face of  
8 the first sheet of paper;

9 (c) if the top cover is two-sided, print a first page of the document on a front face  
10 of the first sheet of paper and print a second page of the document on a back face of the  
11 first sheet of paper;

12 (d) if the top cover is blank, output the first sheet of paper with a blank front face  
13 and a blank back face;

14 (e) obtain one or more subsequent sheets of paper from a second paper source;

15 (f) print one or more pages from a remainder of the document using the one or  
16 more subsequent sheets of paper, wherein each page of the remainder of the document is  
17 printed on only one face of each of the one or more subsequent sheets of paper.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the controller further generates instructions for the  
2 printer to print a first page of the document on a front face of the first sheet of paper if the  
3 top cover is two-sided.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the controller further generates instructions for the  
2 printer to print a first page of the document on a back face of the first sheet of paper if the  
3 top cover is two-sided.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein the controller further generates instructions for the  
2 printer to:

3 (a) obtain a last sheet of paper from the first paper source, the last sheet of paper  
4 comprising a bottom cover;

5 (b) print a last page of the document on a face of the last sheet of paper.

1 21. A computer program product on a computer workstation, the computer program  
2 product comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable printer driver  
3 embodied therein for printing an object instance comprising a document having a first  
4 page 1 through a last page n, the computer workstation including a computer display and  
5 an input device, the printer driver including instructions for:

6 (a) causing a dialog window to appear on the computer display, the dialog  
7 window providing the user the ability to activate one or more formatting features with  
8 respect to printing a cover for the document, wherein a cover comprises a sheet of paper  
9 that is located at the beginning or the end of the document when the document is printed,  
10 the formatting features comprising:

11 (i) a cover being printed on a front face of a sheet of paper;

12 (ii) a cover being printed on a back face of a sheet of paper;

13 (iii) a cover being printed on both a front face and a back face of a sheet  
14 of paper; and

15 (iv) a cover being printed on neither a front face nor a back face of a  
16 sheet of paper;

17 (v) a paper source for covers; and

18 (vi) a paper source for a remainder of the document.

1 22. The computer program product on a computer workstation of claim 21, wherein the  
2 formatting features further comprise:

3 (a) the document including a top cover comprising a cover that is printed at the  
4 beginning of a printed document; and

5 (b) the document including a bottom cover comprising a cover that is printed at  
6 the end of a printed document.

1 23. The computer program product on a computer workstation of claim 21, wherein the  
2 dialog window includes user-selectable checkboxes coupled to a label describing the  
3 formatting features for the document.

4 24. The computer program product on a computer workstation of claim 21, wherein the  
5 dialog window includes a pull-down menu that permits a user to choose a cover paper  
6 source from a list of one or more paper sources.

1 25. An application software program on a computer-readable medium, the program  
2 including instructions for accepting user input with respect to formatting of a printable  
3 document comprised of a first page 1 through a last page n, wherein the user input relates  
4 to formatting features of one or more covers each comprised of a sheet of paper that is  
5 outputted at the beginning or the end of the document when the document is printed, the  
6 formatting features comprising:

- 7 (a) the document including a front cover;  
8 (b) the document including a back cover;  
9 (c) a cover being printed on a front face of a sheet of paper;  
10 (d) a cover being printed on a back face of a sheet of paper;  
11 (e) a cover being printed on both a front face and a back face of a sheet of paper;  
12 and  
13 (f) a cover being printed on neither a front face or a back face of a sheet of paper.

1 26. The application software program on a computer workstation of claim 25, wherein the  
2 formatting features further comprise:

- 3 (a) the document including a top cover comprising a cover that is printed at the  
4 beginning of a printed document; and  
5 (b) the document including a bottom cover comprising a cover that is printed at  
6 the end of a printed document.



1 27. A printing device for printing a document, the printing device including a memory  
2 having software configured to cause the printing device to:  
3 (a) begin using paper from a cover paper source;  
4 (b) output a first sheet of paper from the cover paper source, the first sheet of  
5 paper comprising a top cover of the document;  
6 (c) print a first page of the document on either the front face or the back face of  
7 the top cover;  
8 (d) output a second sheet of paper from a second paper source; and  
9 (e) print a remainder of the document using paper from the second paper source,  
10 wherein the remainder of the document is printed as one-sided.

1 28. The printing device of claim 27, the software additionally configured to cause the  
2 printing device to output a last sheet of paper from the cover paper source and print a last  
3 page of the document on a front face or a back face of the last sheet of paper.

1 29. The printing device of claim 27, wherein the printing device comprises a control unit  
2 coupled to a print engine.

1 30. The printing device of claim 27, wherein the print engine and the control unit are a  
2 single unit.